

Many independent newspapers and radio stations are being forced out of business since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It is a threat to our free society for news coverage to be controlled by a few large corporate owners since passage of the act. One company owns 11 percent of the total radio stations across the country. International news coverage is down from 45% in the 1970's to 14% in 1995. No wonder people don't understand why other countries oppose our point of view in Iraq. The world is far too dangerous and complex for us to be without independent news sources, well trained and willing to ask hard questions. Small news and radio and TV stations are forced out of business because they cannot compete with the advertising rates of large companies who own controlling interest in a single market. Please work to limit the number of media outlets any single company can own in a single market. It is essential for our country to have independent voices and media coverage to remain a free people.